4,349,665

[11]

9 Claims, No Drawings

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424/181; 435/76

Field of Search ...... 536/17 R, 4

[58]

## MACROLIDE ANTIBIOTIC COMPLEX

This invention relates to a novel macrolide antibiotic complex which consists of four structurally related 5 compounds which we designated AR-5-3.

This invention also relates to the microbiological production of the complex by a mutant strain of *Micromonospora polytrota* and its use in combatting infections.

For the sake of convenience, the complex may be 10 designated AR-5-3.

## THE MICROORGANISM

The microorganism used in this invention was obtained by mutagenic treatment of *Micromonospora poly-* 15 trota ATCC 31584, NRRL 12066 by the method set forth hereinbelow. The mutant strain (SCC 1442) has been deposited with the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Md. (accession No. ATCC 31648), and with the Northern Regional Utilization and Re-20 search Division, AR.S, Peoria, Ill. (accession No. NRRL 12179). Sub-cultures of the mutant strain may be obtained from the above-named depositories.

When grown in a broth medium containing soluble starch and yeast extract, *M. Polytrota* SCC 1442 forms 25 clumps of fine, 0.8 to 1.2 micron, branching mycelium. Spores are not abundantly formed even after 10 to 14 days incubation at 35° C. When present, they occur singly or in clusters along the length of the hyphae.

The organism contains meso-diaminopimelic acid 30 (meso-DAP) as a characteristic amino acid in the cell

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wall. Whole cells contain arabinose and xylose as characteristic sugars.

Table 1 reports the cultural characteristic of SCC 1442 on various standard media after 14 days incubation at 30° C. (Shirling and Gottlieb, Inter. J. Syst. Bact., 16:313-340, 1966; Waksman, The Actinomycetes, Vol. II, The Williams and Wilkins Co., 1961).

The color designations assigned to the vegetative mycelial pigments consist of a color name (Descriptive Color Names Dictionary, Container Corp., America, 1950) and a color-chip number (Color Harmony Manual, ed. 4, Container Corp. America, 1958). The mutant strain is compared to the type strain, *M. polytrota* ATCC 31584.

SCC 1442 is similar to *M. polytrota* ATCC 31584 in growth, appearance, and pigmentation on most organic media. Vegetative mycelium pigmentation ranges from dark purple brown to light brown. A bloom is not formed by this strain after 14 days of incubation.

The physiologic characteristics and carbohydrate utilization of SCC 1442 are set forth in Tables 2 and 3 and are compared to ATCC 31584. The strains do not differ in the characters tested.

The characteristic difference between SCC 1442 and ATCC 31584 is in the production of antibiotics. *M. polytrota* ATCC 31584 produces the macrolide antibiotic complex described and claimed in U.S. application Ser. No. 93,080, filed Nov. 9, 1979. The same or similar antibiotics are described in British Patent publication No. 2,020,647A, published Nov. 21, 1979, now U.S. Pat. No. 4,307,085.

SCC 1442 produces a different macrolide antibiotic complex whose structures are set forth hereinbelow.

TABLE 1

Growth Characteristics of SCC 1442 compared to M. polytrota ATCC 31584 on Various Descriptive Media			
Medium	<u> </u>	ATCC 31584	SCC 1442
Bennett's Agar	G:	+++, good	+++, good
	S:	Raised, granular	Raised, folded
	AM:	Present; gray bloom	Absent
	DFP:	Present; gray-black	Absent
	' <b>C</b> :	gn, charcoal	g4pl, dark spice brown
Czapek-Sucrose Agar	G:	+++, good	+++, good
•	S:	Raised, plicate	Raised, folded
		Present; gray bloom	Absent
		Present; dark gray	Present; faint yellow
	C:	gp, black	g4lg, light spice brown
Glucose-Asparagine		·	
Agar	G:	++, moderate	
	S:	Raised, granular	
		Absent	'
	DFP:	Present; faint brown	
•	C:	g5po, chocolate brown	
Glycerol-Asparagine			
Agar (ISP No. 5)	G:	+, fair to poor	±, poor
	S:	Granular	Non-characteristic
	AM:	Absent	
`:-·``	DFP:	Absent	
		g4lg, light spice brown	
Nutrient Agar	G:	+, fair to poor	+, fair to poor
	S:	Granular	Flat, granular
	AM:	Absent	Absent
n .	DFP:	Absent	Absent
		g4lg, light spice brown	g4ne, luggage tan
Potato-Dextrose Agar	G:	++, moderate	++, moderate
	S:	Raised, plicate	Raised, plicate
	AM:	Present; white to gray bloom	Absent
	DFP:	Absent	Present; light gray
	C:	g5ml, chocolate	g <sub>6</sub> nl, dark brown
Emerson's Agar	G:	+, fair to poor	+, fair to poor
	S:	Flat, granular	Flat, granular
		Absent	Absent
	DED.	Present; gray brown	Absent

## TABLE 1-continued

	T	ABLE 1-continued		
		stics of SCC 1442 compared to .584 on Various Descriptive Med	M. polytrota	
Medium		ATCC 31584	SCC 1442	
	C:	g4pn, chocolate brown	g4le, cedar	
NZA Glucose Agar		+++, good	+++, good	
•		Raised, plicate	Raised, plicate	
		Present; white to gray bloom	Absent	
		Absent gn, charcoal	Absent g5ng, brick red	
Yeast Extract	O.	gii, charcoai	gslig, blick red	
Glucose Agar	G:	+++ good	+++, good	
	S:	Raised, plicate	Raised, deeply folde	ed
		Present; white to gray bloom	Absent	
		Present; gray	POSCIII	
Tomato Paste		gspn, ebony brown		
Oatmeal Agar				
		Daired nounders		
	AM:	Present; gray bloom		
		Present; laint gray		
Yeast Extract-Malt		gd, gray		
Extract Agar (ISP				
No. 2)	G:	+++, good	+++, good	
		Raised, plicate	raised, folded	
	AM:	Absent	Absent	
		Present; gray	Ausent	
Oatmeal Agar		gopn, dark eggplant +, fair to poor	gspi, copper brown	
<u>Satisfour 115ur</u>		Granular	•	
•		Present; white to gray bloom	A booms	
		Absent	Present; faint orange	e e
·	C:	gspo, chocolate	g <sub>3</sub> lc, light amber	·
Inorganic Salts Starch Agar				
Staten Agar		++, moderate	++, moderate	
• •		Flat, granular Present; gray bloom	Flat, ribbon-like	
		Present; gray	Absent Present; faint red	
		gspo, chocolate brown	g10po, black plum	
Starch Agar				
(Waksman No. 21)		+, fair	+, fair	
		Flat Present; white to gray bloom	Flat	
•	DFP:	Present; gray	Absent Present; gray-brown	ጉ ገ
		g4nl, dark brown	gslg, cocoa brown	
Calcium Maleate Agar	G:	+, fair to poor	+, fair to poor	
		Granular	Granular	
		Absent Absent	Absent Absent	
		gapg, dark luggage tan	g <sub>3</sub> gc, light tan	
Tyrosine Agar			939-1B turi	
(ISP No. 7)	G:	++, moderate	++, moderate	
		Raised, plicate	Raised, folded	
		Absent Present; gray brown	Absent	
		gapn, ebony brown	Absent g410, maple	
Starch Agar (Gordon)		+++, good	++, moderate	
		Raised, plicate	Flat, furrowed	
		Present; gray bloom	Absent	
		Present; faint brown	Absent	
Gelatin Agar (McDade)		g10po, black plum +, fair to poor	gang, light brown ++, moderate	
		Granular	Raised, folded	
		Absent	Absent	-
	DFP:	Absent	Absent	
Glucoso Associate	C:	g4nl, dark brown	g3ic, light amber	
Glucose-Asparagine Agar	G.	+, fair		
D			•	
		Flat, slightly folded Absent		
		Absent		
Tr	C:	g3ca, shell		
Tomato-Paste Oatmeal Agar	G.	上上 moderate		
Vacanoui rigai		++, moderate  Flat slightly folded	•	
		Flat, slightly folded Absent		
		Absent		•
•				

#### TABLE 1-continued

•	Growth Characteristics of SCC 1442 compared to M. polytrota ATCC 31584 on Various Descriptive Media			
Medium	ATCC 31584	SCC 1442		
	C: g5ng, brick red			

G = growth;

S = surface characteristics;

AM = aerial mycelium; DFP = diffusable pigments; and

C = color of the growth.

#### TABLE 2

	ATCC 31584 and 9	, 1	
Test	ATCC 31584	SCC 1442	· .
Hydrolysis of:			
Adenine	Negative	Negative	
Hypoxanthine	Positive, strongly	Positive, strongly	
Tyrosine	Positive, weakly	Positive, weakly	
Casein	Positive	Positive	1
Starch	Positive	Positive	•
Gelatin	Positive	Positive	
Xylan	Negative	Negative	
Nitrate to			
Nitrate:	Weakly positive	Weakly positive	
Growth in the	Presence of:		
NaCl 1.0%	+++, good	+++, good	•
2.0%	++, moderate	++, moderate	
3.0%	+, fair to poor	+, fair to poor	
Growth at:			
28° C.	+++, good	+++, moderate to good	
35° C.	+++, good	+++, good	;
40° C.	++, fair to moderate	++, fair to moderate	
45° C.	+, fair	+, fair	
Formation of:		·	
H <sub>2</sub> S	Negative	Negative	
Melanin	Negative	Negative	

TABLE 3

Utilization of Carbohydrates				
Carbohydrate	ATCC 31584	SCC 1442		
Control	Negative	Negative		
D-Arabinose	+++, good	+++, good		
L-Arabinose	+++, good	+++, good		
Cellibiose	+++, good	+++, good		
Dulcitol	-, poor	–, poor		
Erythritol	–, poor	–, poor		
Frucose	+++, good	+++, good		
L-Fucose	–, poor	poor		
Galactose	±, poor to fair	±, poor to fair		
Glucose	+++, good	+++, good		
α-m-d-glucoside	–, poor	-, poor		
Glycerol	-, poor	-, poor		
Inositol	-, poor	-, poor		
Inulin	±, poor to fair	±, poor to fair		
Lactose	–, poor	-, poor		
Maltose	+++, good	+++, good		
Mannitol	-, poor	—, poor		
Mannose	+++, good	+++, good		
Melibiose	-, poor	-, poor		
Raffinose	-, poor	-, poor		
Rhamnose	-, poor	-, poor		
Ribose	+, fair	+, fair		
Sucrose	+++, good	+++, good		
Trehalose	+++, good	+++, good		
D-xylose	–, poor	-, poor		

In view of the substantial similarity between M. polytrota ATCC 31584 and M. polytrota SCC 1442, the preparation of inocula, the fermentation and the nutrient media used therein are substantially identical to those 65 set forth in application Ser. No. 93,080, filed Nov. 9, 1979, which application (now U.S. Pat. No. 4,307,085) is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

## THE FERMENTATION

The fermentation is preceded by the development of a vegetative inoculum which is usually prepared in two or preferably three stages. The first stage is inoculated with a 2-10%, preferably a 2-5% by volume frozen whole broth sample of the strain which has been previously prepared. The subsequent stages are usually inoculated with from about 5 to about 10% by volume of the preceding inoculum.

The fermentation is adjusted to a pH of from about 6.5 to about 7.5, preferably at from about 6.8 to about 7.0 prior to inoculation. The temperature at which the fermentation is conducted is from about 28° to about 33° C., preferably at 30° C. with agitation. In general, the fermentation reaches peak production in about 5 to about 6 days. Monitoring of the fermentation is effected by extracting a whole broth sample with a non-water miscible organic solvent, preferably ethyl acetate, by thin layer chromatography of the extract and bioautography of the chromatogram against Staphylococcus aureus 209P.

### ISOLATION AND PURIFICATION

When peak antibiotic production is attained, the whole broth is adjusted to pH 7.0 and extracted with ethyl acetate or other suitable non-water miscible organic solvent. The extracts are concentrated to a residue, which residue is redissolved in a minimum volume of ethyl acetate and extracted with about 2 volumes 5% acetic acid and the two liquid phases are separated. The aqueous acidic layer is adjusted to pH 8.5 and is extracted with ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate extracts are combined, dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated to an oily residue.

# SEPARATION AND PURIFICATION OF AR-5-3

The AR-5-3 Complex is separated by a High Performance Liquid Chromatography system wherein separation is effected by repetitive chromatography of fractions having substantially the same migration rate.

The HPLC System may be described as follows: Column: ES Industries-Chromegabond C-8

55 Particle Size: 10 Microns

Length×I.D.: 50 cm×9.6 mm

Mobile Phase: Acetonitrile: 0.01 M ammonium acetate buffer (pH 4.0) in a ratio by volume of 40:60)

Flow Rate: 5 ml/min.

60 Detection: UV at 254 mm

Pressure: 1500 psi

The Planar structures of the compounds of this invention were determined by physicochemical measurements such as NMR, mass spectroscopy, ultraviolet spectroscopy and the like. Also, the compounds were compared with their 3"-OCH<sub>3</sub> counterparts which are described and claimed in application Ser. No. 93,080 filed Nov. 9, 1979, now U.S. Pat. No. 4,307,085 and in

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the aforementioned British Patent Publication. Thus, the antibiotics of this invention may be depicted by the following Planar structural formulae:

wherein R is hydrogen or hydroxy and the dotted line represents a double bond between the carbon atoms of <sup>25</sup> positions 12 and 13 or together with the carbon atoms at positions 12 and 13 an oxirane ring.

The individual members of the Complex may be depicted by the following Planar structural formulae:

$$O = \begin{pmatrix} CH_{3} & II \\ N-CH_{3} \\ O & & \\ &$$

$$O = \begin{pmatrix} CH_3 & III \\ N-CH_3 \\ 10 & CH_3 \\ 10 & CH_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} CH_3 & III \\ N-CH_3 \\ 10 & CH_3 \\ 11 & CH_2 \\ 11 & CH_2 \\ 12 & CH_2 \\ 13 & HO \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} CH_3 & III \\ N-CH_3 & III \\ N-CH_2 & III \\ N-CH_3 & III \\ N-CH_$$

-continued ÇH<sub>3</sub>  $N-CH_3$ CH<sub>3</sub> CH<sub>3</sub> HO-CH<sub>3</sub> CH<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>  $CH_2$ CH<sub>3</sub> HO' OCH<sub>3</sub> HO

$$CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3}$$

$$O = \begin{cases} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} \\ O = \begin{cases} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} \\ O = \begin{cases} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} \\ O = \begin{cases} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} \\ O = \begin{cases} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} \\ O = \begin{cases} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} CH_{3} \\ O = \begin{cases} CH_{3} C$$

The antibiotics of this invention are capable of form-40 ing non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts by virtue of the dimethylamino group at position 3. By non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts is meant those that do not exhibit toxic manifesta-45 tions at normal therapeutic doses.

In view of their close structural relationship with the compounds of application Ser. No. 93,080, we have given the compounds of this invention the following trivial names:

Compound II—3"-desmethyl AR-5-1,

Compound III—3"-desmethyl-12,13-desepoxy-12,13dehydro AR-5-1,

Compound IV—3"-desmethyl AR-5-2, and

V—3"-desmethyl-12,13-desepoxy-12,13dehydro AR-5-2.

Exemplary of such salts are those formed with such acids as hydrochloric, sulfuric, phosphoric, citric acetic, propionic, tartaric, maleic, benzoic, cyclo-60 propylcarboxylic, adamantyl carboxylic and the like. Acid addition salts may be prepared by methods generally used in the art, such as by adding a stoichiometric amount of acid to a solution of antibiotic in a non-reactive organic solvent and isolating the salt by methods 65 known in the art such as precipitation with a solvent wherein the salt is not appreciably soluble, e.g. diethyl ether, hexane. A non-reactive solvent is one which does not react with the antibiotic, the acid or the salt.

The hydroxyl groups at positions 2', 3" and 4" are amenable to esterification to form non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable esters, such as, for example, those formed by reaction with typical acylating agents such as with anhydrides or chlorides of organic acids, especially hydrocarbon carboxylic acids. Further, the anti-biotics of this invention are susceptible to the formation of 2'-monoesters, 2',3",4"-triesters, and, by selective solvolysis of the 2'-ester, 3", 4"-diesters may be obtained.

# In vitro activity of the AR-5-3 Complex

The in vitro Minimal Inhibitory Concentration of the AR-5-3 Complex was obtained using Mueller-Hinton Agar with 5% sheep blood. The results are reported in 15 micrograms per ml.

	Organism	MIC	
	Staphylococcus	.25	
	Staphylococcus AF-1	.25	
	Staphylococcus Giorgio	.25	$\mathcal{S}_{i_1,i_2,i_3} = \mathcal{S}_{i_3,i_4}$
	Staphylococcus Gray	.25	10.14
	Staphylococcus Wood	.25	
	Staphylococcus Ziegler	.25	•
	Staphylococcus 59N	.25	
	Staphylococcus 168	.125	
	Staphylococcus 209P	.125	
	Staphylococcus 306	.25	
	Staphylococcus 676	.25	
	Staphylococcus 1613	5	;
٠.	Staphylococcus 76083002	.125	
	Staphylococcus 76050601	.125	
. ;	Erythromycin Resistant		
	Staphylococcus 76080401	>16	.v
	Staphylococcus 76070105	> 16	
	Staphylococcus 76070106	2	
i.	Staphylococcus 76070108	.125	
	Macrolide Resistant	• :	•
	Staphylococcus 76010501	>16	•
	Staphylococcus 76061501	>16	
	Staphylococcus 76070103	>16	
	Staphylococcus ATCC 27626	>16	

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	AR-5-3 Activity Against Streptococcus		
	Organism	Group	MIC	
	5140	$\mathbf{A}$	2	
	G-F	$\mathbf{A}$	.25	
	Y	$\mathbf{A}$	2	
	Harper	$\mathbf{A}$	16	
	ATCC 19	1615 A	.25	
	Divesta	$\mathbf{A}$	8	
	Murc	$\mathbf{C}$	.25	
	Thacker	C	>16	
	M-6	C	>16	
	Parsons	G	.25	
٠.	Hamer	G	16	
	Lang	$\mathbf{B}$	16	
	Crisp	<b>B</b>	>16	
	Petruzzlio	В	>16	
	G-B	${f B}$	>16	
. • :	G-D	B	>16	
	G-G	${f B}$	>16	
		Streptococcus		
	Jameson.	pneumoniae	2	
	Schmitt	•	2	
•	X	and the state of t	8	
	M-2		16	
	Bloom	$\mathcal{C}_{i}$ , $\mathcal{C}_{i}$	16	
	Haskins	**	16	
	Lutte	viridans	>16	
	1578	**	>16	
	1141	**	>16	
	1626	"	>16	
	1142	**	>16	
	1022	D non-enterococcus	>16	
	0969/72	D non-enterococcus	>16	

-continued		
Getz	D enterococcus	>16
McCormick	D enterococcus	>16
Z	D enterococcus	>16
M-3	D enterococcus	>16
Wd	D enterococcus	>16
Q .	D enterococcus	>16

Oral administration of 2 mg of approximately a 50:50 mixture of compounds IV and V to Carworth Farms CFI mice gave serum levels of 0.73 micrograms/ml in one-half hour and of 10.07 micrograms per ml in one hour. Based upon the MIC data, it is evident that in one hour a therapeutic level of antibiotic for treating infections by a host of organisms, especially gram positive organisms, is already in the serum.

By virtue of their in vivo activity the antibiotics of this invention may be administered topically, parenterally and orally, preferably in admixture with suitable pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and diluents. These antibiotics may be administered in the form of non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable esters or in the form of non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts.

The dosage forms, excluding topicals should be designed to permit the administration of from about 5 to about 50 mg per kg per day preferably in divided dosages to be administered 2 to 4 times per day. Topical formulations should also be applied to the affected areas 2 to 4 times a day and should contain from about 5 to about 15, preferably about 10 grams per liter for lotions and the same quantity per kilogram for ointments.

#### THE MUTATION

35 Micromonospora polytrota ATCC 31648, NRRL 12179 was prepared by a double mutation, the first of which was performed upon M. polytrota, ATCC 31584, NRRL 12066. The intermediate mutant (GS-M1-7101) was isolated and subjected to a second mutagenic treatment. Each mutation was performed according to the following procedure:

Three ml of a frozen cell preparation are inoculated into 50 ml of sterile Medium No. 1 in a 250 ml shake flask and the flask is shaken at 350 r.p.m at 30° C. for 72 45 hours. Ten ml of the culture medium is centrifuged, resuspended in 20 ml of 0.05 M[mono-tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane maleate]buffer PH 6.0; hereafter Tris-buffer, and sonicated for 30 minutes in an ice bath. The suspension is centrifuged, the sediment is resus-50 pended in 29 ml of Tris-buffer, sonicated again for 30 minutes in an ice bath and N-Methyl-N'-nitro-N-Nitroso-guanidine (NTG) is added to a concentration of 200 micrograms per ml. The mixture is shaken at 250 r.p.m. for 30 to 120 minutes at 30° C. and 1.0 ml samples 55 are withdrawn at 30 minute intervals. Nine (9) ml of Tris-buffer is added to each sample and the suspension is centrifuged at 250 r.p.m. The sediment is again resuspended in 10 ml of Medium No. 1 and shaken for 180 minutes at 30° C., sonicated for 15 minutes in an ice bath 60 and diluted to  $10^{-7}$  with distilled water. The diluted samples are plated on Medium No. 2 (agar) and incubated for 10 to 14 days at 30° C. Colonies are picked at random and the colony which appears to be healthiest (more profuse growth) is selected for a second muta-65 genic treatment which is performed exactly as the first.

After the second mutagenic treatment, the colony having the healthiest appearance is again selected and grown on Medium No. 1 for 72 hours at 30° C. Six-

tenths (0.6) ml of the whole broth is transferred into 10 mls of Medium No. 3 and incubated for 5 days at 30° C. The whole broth is harvested by extraction twice with 20 ml of ethyl acetate. The extracts are combined, concentrated to dryness and redissolved in 0.3 ml of a mixture of chloroform-methanol (1:1 by volume). Five microliters of the solution is spotted on Whatman 10 LK6DF plates and the chromatogram is developed using the lower phase of a chloroform-methanol -17%ammonium hydroxide (40:12:20) solvent system. The developed plates are bioautographed against Staph-.aureus 6358P. The compounds of this invention have  $\mathbf{R}_f$  values of 0.41 and 0.27.

	MEDIA	· · · · ·	
	(a) No. 1		
	Beef Extract	3.0	gms.
	Tryptone	5.0	gms.
	Yeast Extract	5.0	gms.
	Cerelose	1.0	gms.
•	Potato Starch	24.0	gms.
•	CaCO <sub>3</sub>	2.0	gms.
* .= ·	Anti-foam	1	ml
	Tap H <sub>2</sub> O	1000	ml
	Adjust pH to 7.5		
•	(b) No. 2		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Beef Extract	3.0	gms.
	Tryptone	5.0	gms.
	Yeast Extract	5.0	gms.
	Cerelose	1.0	gms.
	Soluble Starch		gms.
	CaCO <sub>3</sub>	,	gms.
	Agar	15.0	gms.
	Tap H <sub>2</sub> O	1000	ml.
	Anti-foam	2.0	ml ***
	Adjust pH to 7.5		
	(c) No. 3		
	J-Starch	50.0	gms.
	Distillers Solubles		gms.
	Pharmamedia	•	gms.
	Tap H <sub>2</sub> O	1000	
	Anti-Foam		ml
	Adjust pH to 7.0		

We claim:

1. AR-5-3 Complex consisting of compounds having the Planar structural formula:

wherein R is hydrogen or hydroxy and the dotted line represents a double bond between the carbon atoms of positions 12 and 13 or together with the carbon atoms at 25 positions 12 and 13 an oxirane ring and the non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts, and the non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable 2'-monoesters, the 3'',4''-diesters, and the 2',3'',4'' triesters thereof, wherein the acyl moiety of said esters are derived from 30 hydrocarbon carboxylic acids having 2 to 18 carbon atoms, and R is a member of the group consisting of hydrogen and hydroxy.

2. A composition having substantial antibiotic activity, said composition consisting essentially of a mixture 35 of 3"-desmethyl AR-5-1, 3"-desmethyl 12,13-desepoxy-12,13-dehydro AR-5-1, 3"-desmethyl AR-5-2 and 3"desmethyl-12,13-desepoxy-12,13-dehydro AR-5-2.

3. A composition of claim 2 having substantial antibiotic activity, said composition consisting essentially of a 40 mixture of 3"-desmethyl-AR-5-2 and 3"-desmethyl-12,13-desepoxy-12,13-dehydro-AR-5-2.

4. A composition of claim 2 having substantial antibiotic activity, said composition consisting essentially of a mixture of 3"-desmethyl-AR-5-1 and 3"-desmethyl-45 12,13-desepoxy-12,13-dehydro AR-5-1.

5. A non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable 2'-monoester of a compound of claim 2.

6. A non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt of a compound of claim 3.

7. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is hydrogen and the dotted line between positions 12 and 13 in the formula represents an oxirane ring, said compound being 3"-desmethyl-AR-5-1.

8. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is hydroxy and the dotted line between positions 12 and 13 in the formula represents an oxirane ring, said compound being 3"-desmethyl-AR-5-2.

9. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is hydroxy and the dotted line between positions 12 and 13 in the formula represents a double bond, said compound being 3"-desmethyl-12,13-desepoxy-12,13-dehydro-AR-5-2.